



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Agenda Item 4

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**POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL
2010-2011 POTENTIAL WORK PLAN ITEMS**

The following are potential items for the 2010-2011 Policy Advisory Council work plan based on the Council's discussion at its meeting in May.

- **Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy**

In response to state climate change legislation (SB 375, Steinberg), regional agencies, including MTC, will develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy to be included in the next long-range Regional Transportation Plan by spring 2013. In this effort, the Commission will address strategies for reducing greenhouse gases from cars and light trucks, including the relationship between transportation investment and land use, housing, more livable communities located near transit, equity, safety, public health, and environmental protection. As a key comprehensive program for the Commission, this Sustainable Communities Strategy will touch upon a number of issues included in the priorities submitted by the former MTC advisory committees.

- **Social Equity**

The Policy Advisory Council could provide input to the Commission to ensure that traditionally underserved communities share equally in the benefits of the transportation system without bearing an undue burden with respect to negative impacts. This is an essential element of MTC's planning and fund programming work. The Council would assist by providing input to the Commission and its staff in conducting an Equity Analysis for the above-mentioned Regional Transportation Plan. Advisors would be expected to become familiar with data, terminology and regional issues related to equity and environmental justice.

Based on the suggestion of former MTC advisors engaged in this subject, this is an area that could be well served by the formation of an ongoing equity working group of the Policy Advisory Council. The group would report to the Policy Advisory Council and its focus would be primarily on the Equity Analysis. The working group could also provide input on "snapshot" analyses of equity and transportation, as well as offer guidance on MTC's Lifeline Transportation Program evaluation, disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) contracting issues, or any other relevant equity or environmental justice issues as they arise.

- **Transit Sustainability Project**

MTC has launched a comprehensive initiative to review the state of public transit in the region in light of significant funding shortfalls, and to look for opportunities to make our transit network more sustainable for the customer and responsive to the need for a more robust system to support the Sustainable Communities Strategy. The Council would participate in discussions about the financial and service factors affecting the current system, and provide input on specific proposals related to improving cost-effectiveness, attracting ridership, and achieving a more reliable financial plan for transit.

- **Public Participation Plan**

MTC is required under state and federal law to adopt and periodically update a Public Participation Plan. Staff is now working on such an update, with the goal of having a draft this summer. Beyond the statutory requirements for a formal plan, however, the Council could offer ideas and serve as a sounding board on ways to get more people involved in key transportation policy and funding decisions facing the Commission. Advisors could also help spread the word in your own communities about opportunities to get involved.

- **Pricing**

The Council could provide advice on pricing policies for the region's transportation facilities, including fee structures related to a proposed new Bay Area Express Lane Network, as well as congestion pricing on toll bridges and other pricing initiatives. An area of special concern is ensuring that low-income residents are not burdened unduly by any pricing system. This is another area flagged by former MTC advisors as a potential priority area for the Council.

Other Discussion Topics

In addition to the above longer term priorities, the Council could offer advice on a variety of topics that require only short-term discussion (for example, specific funding programs, federal and state legislation or regional ballot measures, Joint Policy Committee initiatives, etc.).

MEETING NOTES
APRIL 14, 2010 WORK PLAN DISCUSSION

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM FORMER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Paul Branson, former chair of EDAC, mentioned equity piece with two themes:

1. Access to the Bay Area's transportation system for people with disabilities
2. The need for transportation of the aging population in the Bay Area.

Specific projects he mentioned included accessibility for TODs, pedestrian safety, mobility management, and they would like a goal for the RTP related to improving transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Carlos Castellanos, former vice chair of MCAC, mentioned:

1. The need for equity and looking at how all of MTC's plans and programs affect the communities of concern (but not necessarily separate from the elderly and disabled equity perspective).
2. Continued exploration of the use of the snap shot analysis as a tool.

He also mentioned: minority contracting and the high school internship program.

Rich Hedges, representing the former Advisory Council, mentioned:

1. Land Use and Transportation
2. Sustainable Transportation
3. Economics and Pricing

The committee formed subcommittees around the topics above, and also discussed increasing density around transit stations, increasing parking fees in local communities (imposing actual parking costs), more frequent transit, rationalizing the transportation venues in the Bay Area and possibly merging them together, moving freight using BART, and pricing models that better reflect the actual cost of transit.

SUMMARY OF COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Jim Spering:

- The implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is important
- There is a need to focus on rural counties, not just the urban core
- Transit sustainability is also important
- Interested in ensuring there are no negative economic impacts on already under-served communities as a result of planning policies
- Interested in creating a stronger link with the advisors

Steve Kinsey:

- The concept of sustainability is important both for transit and growth
- All of the “Three Es” (economy, environment and social equity) are important
- Mentioned the Strategic Plan and how the Commission did not address climate change in it – climate change needs to be a major issue for transportation planning and land use planning
- also mentioned pricing as a tool to gain revenue and adjust behavior
- mentioned the local Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs) and how advisors should be involved there

Chris Daly:

- Advisors need to push Commission to do the right thing
- Social equity and environmental justice are woven into everything MTC does, and advisors need to needle the Commission to move faster in these areas
- Wants the advisors to be more effective at lobbying the Commission

Giacopini:

- Talked about advisors becoming knowledgeable on various topics as well as the needs of their communities
- Agreed with Daly on advisors lobbying the Commission

Anne Halsted:

- On all of these major initiatives – the RTP, Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Transit Sustainability Project (TSP) – the issue of social equity needs to be included and defined in advance, and the Public Participation Plan (PPP) needs to be defined in advance as well
- Pricing needs to be included
- The Council needs to integrate around these topics as well and not form subcommittees

Jake Mackenzie:

- Wants to strengthen the connection between the advisors and the Commission
- Wants to see that connection maintained and their advice transmitted to the Commission in an ongoing manner

Tom Bates:

- Agrees with advocacy and integration comments
- Wants to focus on better utilization of the automobile, since people are obviously going to drive (i.e., promoting carpooling and getting cleaner vehicles on the road)
- Suggested the Council zero in on the transit sustainability project (because it's just starting and there are big issues there, but no preconceived notions yet)
- Encouraged them to look at others ways of getting people around
- Reiterated: don't try to do a lot of stuff, but zero in on the Transit Sustainability Project

Amy Worth:

- The three advisory committees were consolidated to create an integrated discussion
- Transit sustainability is an important issue; we can either cut service or look at new ways to provide these services that will save money
- Need to address issues of equity and access
- Work toward creating a better transit product
- Advisors need to present a strong – and, when possible, unified – voice to the Commission
- Keep in mind geographic diversity – how do we make these transportation links better

SUMMARY OF ADVISOR COMMENTS

Ann Hancock:

- Feels the items suggested for the work plan are really the symptoms, not the cause – she's interested in finding the cause and ways to fix that
- Feels you can't change one thing, you need to change the whole system
- Wants to identify the key drivers of change for the whole system

Rich Hedges:

- Commissioners talked about ideas that, to him, really means some consolidation of the transit system in the Bay Area
- Would like to discuss some simple ways consolidation could happen

Lori Reese-Brown:

- Interested in Public Participation – it's important to involve the citizens
- Would like to look at successes in other parts of the country and the world
- Need to look at general plans for cities and counties to ensure they are in line with MTC's policies (i.e., TOD)

Evelina Molina:

- Would like to see MTC get more connected to the communities they serve and seek their wisdom as users of the system who live with certain challenges
- Funding and sources of \$ are important, and she wants the advisors to have a clear understanding of how the funds are allocated and where the money goes and why

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Andrew Casteel:

- Wants a system that is economical, takes care of the environmental piece and is equitable and efficient and sustainable
- In order to create a system that is economical, environmentally conscious, equitable, efficient and sustainable, there needs to be data to correctly evaluate what the policies are doing to the system. This is a missing element (mentioned no bike and ped data).
- The data needs to be integrated into one data system and not segregated.

Paul Branson:

- Would like to see the social equity and transit sustainability items in the work plan integrated

(Steve commented that there is nothing MTC does that excludes equity – sustainability includes the Three E framework)

Linda Jeffery Sailors:

- Regarding potential consolidation of transit operations, we need to know how some of these systems work before discussing merging them
- Need to know what the cost per rider is
- There may be small systems that have good systems that should be recommended for some of the others

Egon Terplan:

- Encouraged integration for the committee and not to splinter off into smaller subcommittees, at least early on
- SCS, RTP, TSP are the really big questions to focus on, but they are long term
- Anything from the Commission that's short-term – happening right now?

(Steve mentioned they can give advice on what they'd like to talk about – he reiterated they should focus on the two main items because we're just starting on them and they will get in on the ground floor, which is unusual.)

Frank Robertson:

- We should seriously consider accessibility, transparency and involvement of the community in a meaningful way

Fred Lopez:

- We have a crisis in transportation, but this also creates an opportunity to re-examine or re-engineer the system
- Would like to avoid balkanization of various interest groups and supports integrated discussion

Carmen Rojas:

- She is also interested in talking about the money – what is the budget process; how much money are we talking about; what is already committed?
- What is the influence the PAC has on the budget?

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Randi Kinman:

- Would like to see MTC become a leader in the areas of coordination, sustainability, equity, parity and access.
- Need to develop a common language in order to do this (TOD means different things in different communities)
- Need to develop measurable goals in order to do this

Steve: suggested staff send out the list of topics and do some sort of straw polling or e-mailing in order to narrow the discussion prior to the next meeting.

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